

The Home in Greensboro (North Carolina)

Hilda Richmond

KENT HOME is a "city set on a hill" to the negro race of this particular community, but during the past few years it has enjoyed more than its usual success and is rapidly making for itself a place in the front rank of similar centers in the Southland.

The girl pupils come at from fifteen to eighteen years of age, and in all stages of educational development from the fourth grade to the high school. About half of them are able to pay for board and tuition, while the rest are from the poorest of poor families and must have help. The girls do everything, from washing and ironing to cutting cord-wood and working in the fields, to earn the small amounts needed, in order to make something of themselves. It is really pathetic to know of their struggles in a country that offers few opportunities, especially to young and untrained negro workers. Each year many girls have to be turned away from lack of room, and some of them lose their chance to be educated and helped morally, socially and in every other way, because it is impossible to take them.

Above everything else Kent Home is a religious home, and the first thing that is impressed upon each girl is the importance of conversion, and a personal knowledge of the Saviour. Most of the girls can testify to the clear and saving knowledge of sins forgiven, and to a desire for service. There is not a girl in the Home but willingly prays in public, and all religious services are promptly and cheerfully attended. The girls go to the regular school prayer-meeting and to that in the Home. On Sunday they attend Sunday-school and preaching services in the morning, the Young Women's Christian Association in the afternoon, and Epworth League and preaching services at night.

Considering that the Home is a mile and a half from the church, it can readily be seen that this is a fairly strenuous day for the pupils. Many girls who live quite close to churches can scarcely boast of greater devotion to their services.

The girls go to Bennett College for their lessons, but all industrial and social training is given in the Home. The Superintendent and teachers are kept busy from morning to night. The girls do all the work of the Home, and in every practical way receive lessons that will last all their lives. As there is an allowance of only six dollars and a quarter per month for board, light and fuel for each pupil, it can be easily seen that the most

rigid economy and careful oversight must be employed to make both ends meet. It would tax many efficient housekeepers to keep house on this allowance, but in Kent Home each is well and properly fed on this small amount.

Perhaps a story of the day's routine would be interesting to the friends of the Home. The girls rise at 5:30 daily, to prepare breakfast and do the cleaning. They sleep with windows open (though they feel sure at first that it will kill them), and fresh air is in evidence in the whole building day and night. Breakfast comes at seven. After breakfast dishwashing and cleaning occupy an hour and a half and then come school studies and lessons in sewing and domestic science. After dinner and dishwashing are more lessons, until the recreation period, at half-past three. During this the girls play tennis and basket-ball, take walks on the campus, mow the lawn, and enjoy themselves as other girls. After supper the girls do the supper work and then go to their rooms for mending or similar work till the study hour at seven. There is always a short period after supper in which they sing and play and have a good time together before the study hour. The good night song is sung and all are in bed at nine-thirty, with all lights out.

The greatest need of Kent Home at present is more room. As in hundreds of other missionary undertakings the op-

portunities are many and the resources are few. With a larger building and more teachers we could see the work multiply many fold. There is an increasing friendliness toward the Home on the part of the white people of Greensboro, and the pupils are in demand for all kinds of positions open to women. Business men speak of the marvelous difference between Kent Home pupils and other negro girls. The annual exhibition of the graduating dresses made by the pupils who finish in the sewing classes, draws many white visitors to the Home, and the work calls forth much admiration from the guests. These dresses are made at a cost of two dollars each and in many instances are hand embroidered and dainty enough for a bride.

If any one in the Methodist Episcopal Church professes to believe that Home Missions do not pay, a visit to this school would be a wonderful revelation. It has paid in the past, and is paying in the present, and it has a wonderful future before it. As God has prospered it in the past, so He is continuing to shower rich blessings upon the work, and the friends of Kent Home feel sure that the duties of years to come will be done in the spirit of the Master.

Woman's Home Missionary Society
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